

community garden network meeting

Minutes

- Dee : discussion on regions creating networks themselves to enable funding in a local level , then feeding projects into CGN on a national level
- Finances €427 euro in bank . Spent €570 in 2015 on website and marketing - no income during the year 2015
- Dee describes network to new member - how it started and meeting 3 times a year etc Describing the network
- Q. From dee - how do we sustain the network ?
- Presence @ bloom & electric picnic this year
- JOHNS presentation: How we develop links with organisations that have similar aims as ourselves ? Johns thinks there is an evident overlap between the likes of CGN and DCG (Dublin community growers) and how do we make sure we are linking in?
- Dee makes reference that CGNs aim is to be non political and not affiliated to groups - but realised that they have to work together also .
- Members discuss the links between CGN and other groups such as
 - CSAs. **Nicolette Cocco & Deniele Ponzo**
 - Cultivate
 - Transition towns
 - SEED
 - GIY
 - Federation of farms (NI)
 - Youth reach / ETB
 - Eco unesco
 - Healthy food for all

- Dalgan
- Federation of bee keepers **Robyn piggott**

ACTION : some members will link in with above groups and let them know about CGN (names in bold above) other groups such as GIY and Cultivate already know

Q by member - so how do we become inclusive and why do we want to be linked in with the groups - what is the the advantage ?

A . To help link in with the groups and so we don't waste time inventing the wheel and redoing work that's possibly been done and vice versa

DEE : As members of the CGN we are the experts in community gardening

- John : would like to see DCG and CGN doing a joint project in the future and linking in as much as possible
- Dee: mentioned that DCG is possibly a more formal set up to CGN
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- The possibility of a newsletter and for all region members to have an input
- John: made apologies from members of DCG that could make it
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- Member : WALK could help if community gardens needed volunteers around the country
- John : mentioned guides for community gardens
 - the Dublin guide to community gardening 2013 edition - www.dublincommunityforum.ie
 - Also greensideup.ie
 - Sandra's book (members can contact dee for buying it)

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= Introduction to Karen Mann from every Can counts

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- Dee discusses the all Ireland pollinator plan
- **ACTION** - **Joanne** and **John** will undertake doing more on this and finding out what is expected from the network

- Q from member - how many community garden are in Ireland ? STILL UNKNOWN
- ACTION names needed for county reps to find out
- **Joanne butler donegal**
- **Eoin craven Sligo / Leitrim**
- **Robin piggott limerick/cork**

Mind mapping session

To be attached

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- Dee: website navigation - showing new members how the networks website works as well as Facebook page & group (some members weren't aware of difference !)
- Joanne : talked about members adding CGN branding to their literature or clothing
 - Could the CGN do clothing for sale ?
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 - Newsletter
- Could members add to a newsletter if CGN starts one
- Response seemed positive
- New Facebook administrators **JOANNE BUTLER , ROBIN PIGGOTT**

FEEDBACK FROM MIND MAPPING

- HOW CAN WE BRING FUNDS INTO THE NETWORK
- HOW CAN WE ENGAGE WITH PEOPLE
- HOW CAN WE MAKE THE CGN SUSTAINABLE

- Dee : can members do rate some time to the CGN - 1/2 hour a week was suggested ?
... Even just to have a thought ?
- Dee : can anyone design a poster for CGN to use as a PDF for people to print posters
if needs be ACTION : **NICOLETTE will take that on**

Final thoughts

Dee : is meeting long enough to pack all in

A: perhaps do meeting in morning then Workshops

Dee : we need an AGM . CGN has been running now without an inaugural AGM

ACTION : this will be done at next meeting

NEXT MEETING IN BELFAST AT THE BEGINNING OF MARCH 2016